7EVENTH HEAVEN

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If you look at most song books you will see a LOT of chords with the number 7,

i.e. Cmaj7 (C major 7), C7, G7, Dm7, etc.

It is IMPORTANT to know how to form seventh chords because they help make rhythm piano sound much more interesting.

There are TWO types of seventh chords: **maj7** and **7**

maj7 is pronounced “major 7” (and is also written as M7)

7 is pronounced “seven”

These two sevenths – maj7 and 7 – can be added to ALL chords.

i.e. C could become **Cmaj7** or **C7**

F could become **Fmaj7** or **F7**

Dm could become **Dm7**

Am could become **Am7**

Let’s look at a REALLY easy way to make

ALL the seventh chords using

just 2 easy formulas!

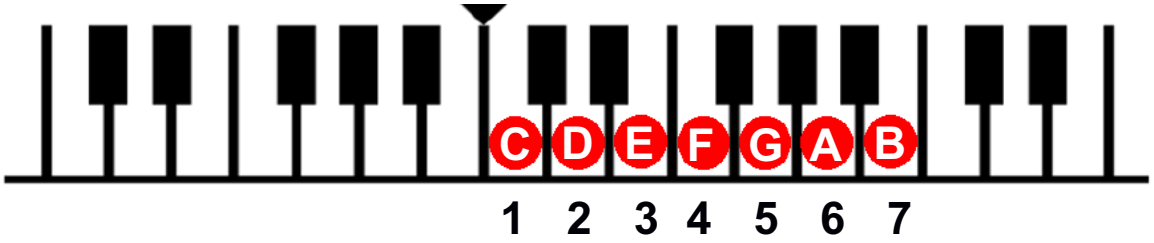
FIRST - WHAT ON EARTH IS A 'SEVENTH' ANYWAY?

You don't really need to know the reasoning behind sevenths in order to use them but for all you information junkies out there, here's a quick explanation.

Chords are built on SCALES

Chord NOTE NUMBERS (ie '1', '3', '5', '7') are derived FROM these scales

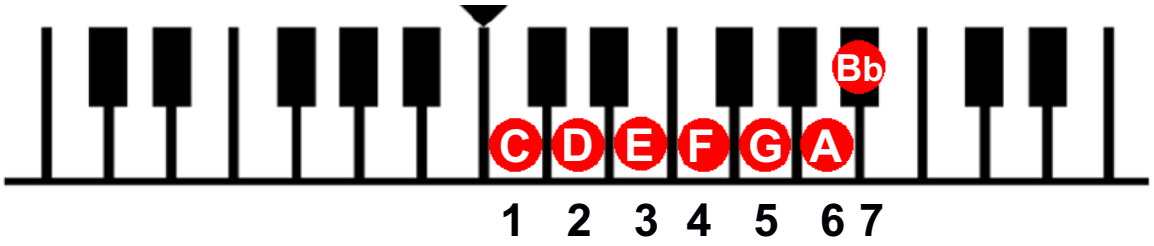
For instance - this is a **C MAJOR** scale



The chord of C uses 1 3 5 - C E G

The chord of Cmaj7 uses 1 3 5 **7** - C E G **B**

This is a **C7** scale



The chord of C7 uses 1 3 5 **7** - C E G **B^{b}**

DON'T PANIC

I have a really EASY way to form sevenths as you'll see on the next page

Instead of adding the seventh on TOP of the chord you are going to add it BELOW the chord. This is MUCH easier to do to begin with.

SEVENTH CHORDS MADE EASY

just 2 easy formulas!

maj7
(M7)

To make a M7 chord, play a 'root position' chord (with your right hand) then move the root note – your **THUMB** – **ONE** key to the left (count the black keys).

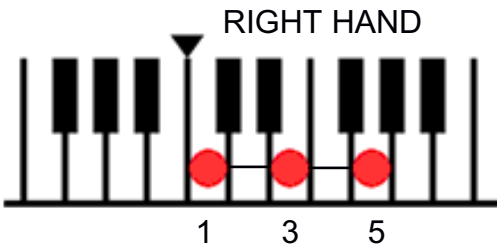
7

To make a 7 chord, play a 'root position' chord (with your right hand) then move the root note – your **THUMB** - **TWO** keys to the left (count the black keys).

NB. Don't alter LEFT HAND notes or patterns!

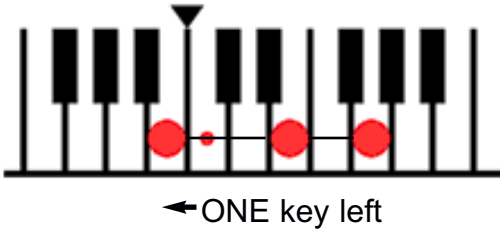
Let's try it on the chord of C

ROOT CHORD



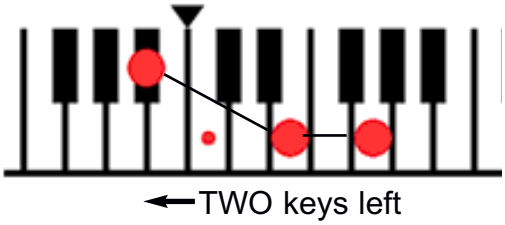
(C)

maj7



(Cmaj7)

7



(C7)

Practice using these two formulas on all the other chords you've learned